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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,267	11/14/2001	Burkhard Standke	209350US0	6970

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EXAMINER

ROBERTSON, JEFFREY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1712

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,267

Examiner

Jeffrey B. Robertson

Applicant(s)

STANDKE ET AL.

Art Unit

1712

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The copy of the Foreign Language search report lists several documents as X references to the present claims. The first document is GB 674,137. This reference fails to teach the method of the present claims. Specifically, the reference does not teach the second stage of claim 1, the stage involving the reaction distillation column. Nitzsche et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,792,071) also fails to teach the method of the present invention in that it does not teach a first stage where the organotrichlorosilanes, water, and alcohol are mixed together. EP 650,968 fails to teach the use of water as required in the present claims. Kotzsch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,226,793) does not teach the process of the instant application, in that requires that ethanol and tetrachlorosilane are mixed together before water is added. There is no mention of an organotrichlorosilane.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-18 are objected to because of the following informalities: For claim 1, "reaction distillation" should be hyphenated, since the remainder of the claims has the term hyphenated. For claim 12, line 2, there should be a hyphen after "dirt" to agree with the rest of the modifiers for repellency. Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claims 15-18 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. For claims 15-18,

the claims merely recite the intended use of the mixture produced in claim 10, and do not result in any further limitation of the recited mixture.

Questions and/or Suggestions

4. For claim 1, applicant sets forth that R and R' equal "alkoxy". However, since R' is limited to either methyl or ethyl, it appears that R and R' should be limited to methoxy or ethoxy when they represent an alkoxy group. This is because the alkoxy groups of R and R' are derived from the tetrachlorosilane components, when they are used. Since R' is methyl or ethyl, this means that either methanol or ethanol was used as the alcohol, and therefore the alkoxy groups of R and R' should also be limited to methoxy or ethoxy. Is this the case? In addition, there appears to be a lack of antecedent basis in the terms "the crude organoalkoxysiloxane product", and "the reaction distillation column" as these terms have not been previously set forth in the claim. Should "the" be changed to "a"? For claim 10, the term "net-like" is not understood. Is the organoalkoxysiloxane a net or not? What is a "net-like" organoalkoxysiloxane? For claim 12, in lines 4 and 5, the recitations of "...and buildings" and "...and starch products" indicate that all of the substrates have to be treated. Should "and" be changed to "or"?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 10-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

For claim 10, it is noted that formula I only supports linear organoalkoxysiloxanes, and not cyclic and/or "net-like" siloxanes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,506,087).

For claims 1, 10, and 15-18, in column 1, line 59 through column 2, line 8, Fischer teaches a continuous process for producing oligomeric alkoxysilanes through the reaction of chlorosilanes with alcohols and water. In column 2, line 60 through column 3, line 50, Fischer teaches the process by which the oligomeric alkoxysilanes are made. Here, Fischer teaches that the alcohol, water, and chlorosilane are mixed into a reactor. The temperature of the reactor is between 20°C and 80°C, which is within the temperature range preferred by applicant. Fischer teaches that the HCl produced in the reaction is released through a heat exchanger, removed from the system. For claims 1 and 7, Fischer also discloses that the raw product is transferred to

the top of a column (Figure), and that the pure product is removed from the receiver, the bottom of the column. Fischer teaches that the column temperature is higher than the boiling point of the alcohol and is distilled off. In Example 2, column 4, lines 10-27, Fischer teaches that the column temperature is 160°C, which is within the range set forth by applicant.

For claim 2, in column 2, line 24, Fischer teaches that isobutyltrichlorosilane may be used as a starting product. For claim 3, in column 2, lines 28-35, Fischer teaches that methanol or ethanol may be used as the alcohol.

For claim 9, in column 2, lines 62-67, Fischer teaches that the alcohol that accumulates at the top of the column is fed into the first stage of the reaction process.

As noted above, Fischer teaches that isobutylchlorosilane is a useful silane, and useful alcohols are methanol and ethanol. Fischer teaches in the Examples, columns 3-4, that both methanol and ethanol can be used. The use of the isobutylchlorosilane combined with the alcohol as either methanol or ethanol, leads to products that have R=isobutyl, and R'= to methanol or ethanol, depending on the alcohol used. Even though, Fischer does not teach an example with isobutylchlorosilane, because it is a specifically named silane in a list of eight, it is anticipated as a silane that is used in the production of oligomeric alkoxysilanes, as taught in Example 2, column 4, lines 10-27. A genus does not always anticipate a claim to a species within the genus. However, when the species is clearly named, the species is anticipated no matter how many other species are additionally named. Ex parte A, 17 USPQ 2d 1716 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990) See also In re Sivaramakrishnan, 673 F.2d 1383, 213 USPQ 441 (CCPA 1982).

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It is also noted that because Fischer teaches that the products are oligomeric, $n+m$ is greater than or equal to two.

For claims 1, 4, 8, 10, and 15-18, Fischer does not expressly teach the ratio of silane to alcohol to water claimed by applicant in claims 1, 4, and 8 for organotrichlorosilane. Fischer also does not teach the ratio of alcohol that is supplied to the lower section of the reaction-distillation column in the second stage of the process. However, as noted by Fischer in column 1, line 64 through column 2, the selection of these amounts depends on the desired oligomeric alkoxysilane produced. Applicant does not show any criticality to these ratios. Therefore, these ratios are result effective variables, which would have been determined by one of ordinary skill in the art. A result effective variable is determined according to the desired properties of the resulting composition and would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

For claims 1 and 5, Fischer does not expressly teach the dwell time of the components in the first process stage. However, this dwell time would also be a result effective variable depending on the degree of hydrolysis and/or condensation desired in the resulting organoalkoxysiloxane. Applicant has shown no criticality to the dwell times set forth in these claims. A result effective variable is determined according to the desired properties of the resulting composition and would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

9. Claims 11, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,506,087) as applied to claims 1 and 10 above, and further in view of Brennan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,668,180).

For claims 1 and 10, Fischer et al. renders those claims obvious as detailed above. Fischer fails to teach a method of treating or coating using the mixture of claim 10.

For claims 11, 12, and 14, Brennan et al. teaches a method of producing organoalkoxysiloxanes in column 1, lines 59-75. In column 4, line 67 through column 5, line 10, Brennan et al. teaches that the organoalkoxysiloxanes can be used to treat concrete to provide water repellency.

Fischer and Brennan are analogous art in that they both teach the synthesis of organoalkoxysiloxanes. It would have been obvious to use the organoalkoxysiloxanes produced by Fischer as treating compositions as set forth by Brennan. The selection of a known material based on its suitability for its intended use supported a prima facie obviousness determination in *Sinclair & Carroll Co. v. Interchemical Corp.*, 325 U.S. 327, 65 USPQ 297 (1945)

10. Claims 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,506,087) as applied to claims 1 and 10 above, and further in view of Stanke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,679,147).

For claims 1 and 10, Fischer et al. renders those claims obvious as detailed above. Fischer fails to teach a method of improving rheological properties of dispersions and emulsions using the mixture of claim 10.

In column 1, lines 1-15, and 60-64, Standke teaches that alkoxysilanes can be used to improve rheological properties of dispersions and emulsions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the

organoalkoxysiloxanes as produced by Fischer to improve the rheological properties of dispersions and emulsions. As evidenced by Standke, it is well known in the art that, silicon containing alkoxy groups are useful for this purpose. The selection of a known material based on its suitability for its intended use supported a prima facie obviousness determination in *Sinclair & Carroll Co. v. Interchemical Corp.*, 325 U.S. 327, 65 USPQ 297 (1945)

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claim objections, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For claim 6, Fischer fails to teach or suggest that the crude product is passed through a preheater before entering the reaction-distillation column.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Roedel (U.S. Patent No. 3,846,358) and Schinabeck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,298,753) are cited as being of general interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey B. Robertson whose telephone number is (703) 306-5929. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:00-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert A. Dawson can be reached on (703) 308-2340. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

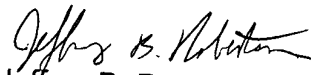
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872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


Jeffrey B. Robertson
Examiner
Art Unit 1712

JBR 
January 22, 2003